Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 184930 ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 JUSE-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 /043 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:JSBOARDMAN:JCM APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. RICH L/EA - MR. NORTON JUSTICE - MR. MICHEL

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P 061302Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, US, KS

SUBJECT: SUBPOENA OF BANK RECORDS OF ROK EMBASSY OFFICERS

REF: SEOUL 6534

1. IN PREVIOUS INSTANCES WHEN THE QUESTION OF THE AVAILABILITY OF BANK RECORDS OF ROK EMBASSY OFFICIALS TO SUBPOENA AROSE, DEPARTMENT GAVE ITS LEGAL VIEW TO ROK EMBASSY THAT VIENNA CONVENTION IMMUNITIES DID NOT EXTEND TO SUCH RECORDS HELD BY THE BANKS FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES. THE ROK HAS NEVER ACCEPTED THAT POSITION. IT REMAINS OPEN TO THE ROK, OF COURSE, TO CHALLENGE ANY GIVEN SUBPOENA IN THE COURTS ON THE BASIS OF THE CLAIMED IMMUNITY. IF ASKED BY THE COURT OR BY ANY OF THE PARTIES, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD GIVE ITS LEGAL VIEW; THIS VIEW WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, NECESSARILY BIND THE COURT.

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2. EA/K DIRECTOR RICH REPEATED THIS POSITION TO ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR KIM SUK KYU AUGUST 1. HE ADDED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT CONSIDER THE ROKG'S CONTESTING OF THE ISSUE AS A HOSTILE ACT ANY MORE THAN THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY JUSTICE DEPT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A HOSTILE ACT AGAINST KOREA.

- 3. DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO INFORMED JUSTICE OF ROK EMBASSY VIEW THAT THEY CONSIDER JUSTICE TO HAVE VIOLATED GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT ABOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION.
- 4. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON ABOVE IN REPLYING TO MOFA, BUT AVOID DISCUSSIONS OF SUBSTANCE OF JUSTICE ROK EMBASSY UNDERSTANDINGS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: SUBPOENAS, BANKS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 06-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE184930
Document Source: Concept Co

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: JSBOARDMAN:JCM

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770283-0112

Format: TEL

From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770889/aaaacxgm.tel

Line Count: 69 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: c7f05160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN EA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 SEOUL 6534

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1685089 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SUBPOENA OF BANK RECORDS OF ROK EMBASSY OFFICERS

TAGS: PDIP, US, KS

To: SEOUL Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c7f05160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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